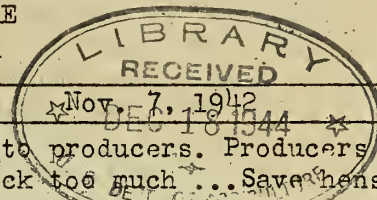


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



NO. 41

AMA "WAR BOARD" Letter Wash. D. C.

Nov. 7, 1942

POULTRY: Turkey price ceiling should permit good prices to producers. Producers should be urged to be careful not to deplete breeding stock too much... Save hens.. Price ceilings are permanent and should assure good market next year too. Besides, may be greater need next year for turkeys to augment meat supply then. October 15 farm price for turkeys averaged 23.9¢ per lb., which was 108 percent of parity on same date. Situation much better than same date last year when farm price average was only 18.8¢ or 93 percent of parity. More important was feed turkey ratio on October 15. One pound of turkey then would purchase 14.8 pounds of feed. On same date last year, one pound of turkey would purchase only 13.4 pounds of feed.

CHICKENS: Present farm price situation is favorable for increased production in some areas. Producers should be urged to hold chickens to market as over 3 lb. roasters. Farm price of chickens on October 15 averaged 19.5¢ per lb or 111 Percent of parity. On same date last year, farm price average was 16¢ or 99 percent of parity. Chicken feed ratio was more favorable to growers on October 15 than same date last year. One pound of chicken would buy 12 pounds of feed on date this year as compared with only 11.4 pounds of feed last year.

FIELD PURCHASE PROGRAMS: During past week, Oct. 30- Nov. 5, bought 524 tons squash, all AMA grade at \$12 per ton; 192 tons in Massachusetts, 266 tons in New Hampshire and 66 tons in Vermont. Cabbage, 247 tons in Minnesota, U.S. No. 1 at \$12 per ton; Sweet Potatoes, total of 8830 bbls at \$2.40 per bbl and 38,767 bu. at 90¢ per bu., all U.S. No. 1 grade; 8447 bu. in North Carolina, 14712 bu. and 555 bbls from Maryland, 8325 bbls and 15,608 bu., from Virginia. Bought 200 cases pineapple, U.S. No. 2, In Puerto Rico at \$1.75 per case.

APPLES: Total purchases to date, Nov. 5, 1,867,881 bu. Total purchases during past week, 170,860 bu. from: Connecticut, 4761 bu. Delaware, 1572 bu., Kentucky, 528 bu., Maine, 10072 bu., Maryland, 5184 bu., Massachusetts, 27,260 bu., Michigan, 9432 bu., New Hampshire, 11,099 bu., New Jersey, 4191 bu., New York, 8409 bu., Ohio, 48,462 bu., Pennsylvania, 9372 bu., Utah, 3960 bu., Virginia, 12348 bu., Vermont, 2861 bu., Washington, 3192 bu., West Virginia, 8157 bu. All purchases made at \$1.25 per bu., except 1546 bu. wrapped for storage in Virginia at \$1.30.

MILK: New development in use of dry skim milk and evaporated milk presents possibilities. During recent shortage of liquid milk in Puerto Rico, AMA official in Washington suggested idea of combining dry skim and evaporated. Worked out a formula calling for combination of one cup dry skim plus quart of water and one can evaporated plus equal amount of water. Makes two quarts of liquid found to be very acceptable as drinking milk. Has been suggested for experimental use in school feeding programs to Regional Administrators. Acceptance may mean substantial contribution to milk situation - use of present large supplies of roller dried skim to extend supplies of evaporated and help meet the indicated shortage of fluid milk.

On Nov. 5 Secretary Wickert issued order directing manufacturers of spray process dried skim milk to set aside 90 percent their monthly production for direct war uses. Order does not apply to stocks on hand in manufacturers' plants or other points. AMA will handle actual administration of order and will confer with representatives of industry on problems raised in Chicago on Nov. 10. Order necessitated by fact that offers of spray dried skim milk and AMA purchases were lagging behind L-L requirements. Questions may arise as to adequacy of stocks for regular commercial users of dry skim milk. They can be told that supplies of roller dried are plentiful and (except for reconstitution for drinking) can be used same as spray dried which is only type affected by order. Change to roller dried will make no change in product for which dry skim milk is used.. Reservation order on spray dried whole milk coming soon.

WARNING against overdrying of cotton at gins will be issued shortly. More than usual number of complaints have been made by handlers this fall regarding fiber

damage due to improper-over-drying. This particularly true in long staple areas of Mississippi Valley and Southwest. Investigation by technologists of AMA and BAC&E from U.S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville, Miss., revealed that overdrying and resultant reduction in staple length traceable to improper drying practices. Recommended to prevent losses: 1. careful check to hold drying temperature low as possible; 2. elimination of use of heated air when incoming cotton is dry enough to gin smoothly without drying and 3. by-pass drier when reconveying overflow cotton to cleaning or distributing equipment. (If no provision is made in cotton handling equipment to by-pass drier, it would be profitable to take steps necessary in light of potential bale value losses.) Recommendations on drying temperatures can be obtained from Stoneville laboratory.

PURCHASE & DISTRIBUTION men of regional offices have been called to conference here next week. Will discuss detailed procedure for handling all section 32 purchases in field. .

Arthur C. Bartlett, Special Asst to Administrator, in Charge of Field Activities, will make swing around regional circuit beginning Nov. 10. Will be in Atlanta Nov. 11-12; Dallas, Nov. 14-18; San Francisco, Nov. 20-23; Denver, Nov. 25-26; Des Moines, Nov. 27-28; Chicago, Nov. 29-30, returning here Dec. 1., Mr. Bartlett now is in charge of AMA War Board activities..

MEAT: First purchase of dehydrated pork for Lend-Lease shipment has been made. Contract with Cudahy Packing Co., Omaha, Neb., calls for delivery of 110,000 pounds to be delivered over future period. Because of beef scarcity, all dehydrated meat purchases for L-L will be pork. Other purchases should follow soon. Eleven packing plants have been allocated materials for facilities to dehydrate meat. Ten are expected to be in full operation by February. Total capacity these dehydration plants is 60,000,000 pounds annually. Specifications for dehydrated pork may be obtained from AMA Livestock Branch, here..

Meanwhile, permit marketing system to handle expected flood of hogs to market this winter has been set up for use, if necessary. System will be handled by Terminal Hog Marketing Committees already in existence at major livestock markets. Under authority of WPB directive, USDA will be prepared to order embargoes and to require farmers to obtain permits to market hogs at any point where a market glut has developed..

TRANSPORTATION: ODT and AMA Transportation section have been swamped with complaints concerning maximum freight car loading order of ODT. (Order 18, revised) It is felt most of trouble can be stopped thru careful reading of ODT order, particularly Section 500.22 which says special permission may be obtained from ODT to avoid controversy with respect to (1) when loading will cause transportation hazards, (2) cause damage to the lading, (3) is beyond the refrigeration, heating or ventilation capacity of a car (4) or to prevent undue hardship. Also cited is Section 500.23 which exempts without any equivocation any freight shipped by or consigned to any establishment of the U.S. Army, Navy, Coast Guard or Marine Corps. Same section provides that in case of unusual circumstances or possible undue cart detention the Division Superintendent or chief operating officer of a railroad may issue a special permit. These provisions should be pointed out to local shippers or producers and they should be urged to get together with their local railroad and ODT men and iron out problems. Would stop bulk of complaints coming to Washington..